

AUXILIARY GUIDE NUMBER FOR JANUARY

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

“Except the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are one, they are not Christ’s, because He is not the author of doubt or disbelief or contention or false doctrine.”—
RUDGER CLAWSON.

No. 50, Vol. 96

Thursday, December 13, 1934

Price One Penny

THE INDIVIDUAL NEED OF GOSPEL LIVING

By ELDER REED SMOOT

OF THE COUNCIL OF TWELVE

THE distracted world of today needs, above all things, true religion as taught by Jesus Christ while in the flesh and restored in this the last dispensation through Joseph Smith, the prophet. Our Church has a regard for the welfare of God’s children and for the ultimate salvation of them all. Our religion does not make its adherents selfish, but on the contrary creates in their hearts a feeling of charity and desire to bless. We do not wish the downfall of a son or daughter of God, but rather we desire their happiness, comfort and joy. This was our Heavenly Father’s desire and plan in the beginning. His plan of salvation which was prepared before the creation of the world was designed for the improvement, the benefit and the ultimate salvation of all His sons and daughters. Whenever we have a desire to assist our fellowman we take the position approved by our Heavenly Father, but when we feel otherwise, we are on slippery ground. The Master came into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. That was the purpose of the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, in the flesh, and of the atonement that He wrought for mankind by His death on the cross.

How often I have been asked, and that in all sincerity, I might add, if the Mormon Church believes in Jesus Christ? My answer has always been: “Perhaps to a greater degree than any other church organization in the world.” We believe Jesus Christ to be the actual Son of God—the second in the Godhead, fore-ordained to His birth, His mission and crucifixion. The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of salvation, of blessing to do good, to prepare us all for the presence of our Eternal Father and to enjoy the glory of His kingdom.

I have been asked hundreds, if not thousands of times, what difference there is between the belief of the Latter-day Saints and that of most of the Christian denominations as to the ultimate salvation of the peoples of this world. I have answered briefly that the Latter-day Saints teach that salvation is for all people—of all ages, of all races, of all colours—all people who can be saved. The revelation to Joseph Smith is that salvation is to come to all, and that none will be lost who can possibly be redeemed—that the plan of salvation is as broad as the fall of man.

Our first parents broke a divine command, and through their disobedience death came into the world—while on the other hand, through the atonement and obedience of Christ, life and salvation will ultimately come to all the family of Adam. “As in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

WE also testify that in the nineteenth century our Heavenly Father was pleased to open the heavens once more and send His Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, with a divine message, conforming in every respect to the teachings of this same Christ while in mortality. We know that angels have been sent from the Father declaring truths that would assure salvation for all who receive and obey them. I recognize that the ordinary person hesitates a long time before he considers it worth while to consider such a declaration. And he can never become convinced until, through faith and prayer, a testimony from an unerring source is received by him. We declare that angels have come down from heaven, bringing light and truth for the salvation of all the human family, and a message to be proclaimed to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. How well this obligation on our part has been carried forward God knows best.

The greatest religious teacher among men was Jesus, the Nazarene. In His personality God was made manifest in the flesh. He revealed Deity to humanity. He showed that God was in reality the Father of the spirits of men. He proclaimed that He was in the beginning with God—that He came forth from God, and would return to God and that all mankind were His brethren, made in the image of God, and part of His eternal family. This presents God as actually and literally “Our Father which art in heaven.” It takes away the mystery with which false faiths have enveloped the Supreme Being—beclouding the minds of men and making God utterly incomprehensible.

Jesus taught that His Father and our Father is a personal being, man being in His likeness, Jesus being Himself in His express image. He taught also that He was sent into the world to save mankind and bring them back to the Father's presence; that no man could come unto God but by Him. The true Christian religion, therefore, combines faith in Jesus Christ, the Son, with faith in God the Eternal Father.

Christ further taught the existence of a divine Spirit proceeding from God to enlighten the souls of men; that is, the Holy Ghost, by which the mind and will of God may be made known to man, and by which holy men, chosen of God, have been inspired in different ages to declare His word.

That the unity of the Godhead is not oneness in person is made

very clear in the account of the baptism of Jesus Christ. The Son on that occasion, came up out of the waters of Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove, and the voice of the Father from heaven proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Jesus said, "I came forth from the Father, and am come unto the world: again, I leave the world and go to the Father." He also prayed to the Father, and in the prayer recorded by John, explained in unmistakable language what He meant when He declared, "I and my Father are one."

ANYTHING that God reveals must be true, because He is truth, and everything that comes by the way of Jesus Christ, His beloved Son, must be true, for He is the way, the truth and the life. No error will be introduced into the world under the direction of the Father, or the Son.

Oh, if we would only put into practice the revealed truths we have received from God our Father, what a wonderful influence we would have as a people in the different parts of this country and in the world! Our very lives and acts would testify of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its results in the lives of its membership.

I never lost anything in this world by obeying the laws of God. I never lost anything in my capacity as a Senator of the United States by not indulging in the habits that are proscribed by my Church. For years, perhaps, those among whom I associated thought it was strange. I have never taken a drink of liquor in my life. I have never smoked in my life. I have never found it necessary that I should do so at any time in order to win respect and the favours of men who do those things. On the contrary, I want to testify that there has been nothing for which I have been honoured and respected more than my devotion to the beliefs that I have. I may add, religious beliefs and moral beliefs, which latter are a very important part of our teachings as a Church.

I do not think there is any honourable calling to which a man may be called, either privately or publicly, in which, in order to be successful, he must violate the laws of God. There is no necessity for it, and I want to say to you that whenever people who know that the laws of the Church proscribe certain actions, see a member of the Church indulge in those actions, they lose their respect for that member completely. God will magnify a people who not only profess these wonderful Gospel truths, but live them. God grant that we may have power to do so, that the Church as a church will never be called upon to apologize for the actions of men or women known as the leaders and members of the Church.—(Adapted from an address delivered at the 193rd Annual Conference held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah).

A CHRISTMAS HINT: A subscription to the *Millennial Star* is a gift in perfect taste, and is particularly appropriate for your friends who are interested in your religious beliefs. Let your Christmas remembrance carry the priceless message of Truth, as well as your greetings and goodwill.

AUXILIARY GUIDE FOR JANUARY

PRIESTHOOD

NOTES FOR BRANCH PRESIDENTS

The weekly Priesthood meeting held under your own personal supervision (with your counsellors) is the training ground of the Church for an active Priesthood. Keep the objective in mind, in studying our present texts, that we are endeavouring to train Latter-day Saint leaders, *willing to conform* to Church standards, who can go forward in developing the untapped resources of each branch organization, including more vigorous auxiliaries.

First Night. Branch teaching reports for December. Lesson-discussion, *Branch Supervision*, page 14 to end of Chapter II. Have you a branch chorister and choir in your branch? If not, why not? What can the Priesthood do right now to help? Further, on page 18, note that the social committee mentioned is now known throughout the Church as the "Community Activity Committee." Read about its functions in the M. I. A. Handbook and past *Star Guides*.

Second Night. Local Priesthood activity report. Twelve-minute talk: "How Blessings Are Obtained." Lesson discussion: "Fitness for the Priesthood." Chapter Five, *Studies in Priesthood*.

Third Night. Two twelve-minute talks: "The Temporal Needs of the Branch," and "The Spiritual Needs of the Branch." (See texts for references.) Lesson: Chapter III, *Branch Supervision*, "Counsel Meetings." All bring Doctrine and Covenants next week.

Fourth Night. Page 30 only, of *Studies in Priesthood*. Beginning with the references to the office of "Bishop" at the top of the page, go through the entire list of references and subjects to be looked up in the Doctrine and Covenants. Everyone should have this important knowledge of the Aaronic Priesthood, how it works as a General Church office, and in a local capacity. In a following evening this will be done for the Melchizedek Priesthood on page 31.—G. HOMER DURHAM.

RELIEF SOCIETY

First Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme. A talk: "Cleaning Our Mental Houses at the Beginning of the New Year." Lesson text: "Jesus, Creator and Overseer of the Earth." Objective: To show that Jesus is the actual creator of heaven and earth, the master of everything in the universe.

Second Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme. A solo: a song of service. Work and Business. Lesson text: *Teacher Topic*, "Octavia Hill and the Housing Problem." Objective: To show how the will to serve others led Miss Hill over the obstacles she met.

Third Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme. A reading: a five or ten minute selection from poems of Wordsworth. Several short poems of this poet may be read. Lesson text: *Life and Literature*, "Poetry." Objective: To stimulate a better understanding of poetry; also to provide an added source of inspiration and comfort through the study of the poems of Wordsworth.

Fourth Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme. A talk: "The Value of the Lessons in Social Service in the Relief Society Manual to Me." Lesson text: *Social Service: Health and Home Nursing*, "Accidents and First Aid." Objective: To give a code of rules to prevent common accidents endangering life in the home and to teach first aid treatment for shock, broken bones, and hemorrhage.

THE BRITISH MISSION RELIEF SOCIETY BOARD.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE following chart gives the classes of the Sunday School, Primary Association, and the Mutual Improvement Association.

Six classes are given for the Sunday School. As many of these six classes should be organized in each branch as is practicable for that branch.

1935 PLAN OF CLASSES

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL		THE PRIMARY ASSOCIATION	
Kindergarten Department		Ages :	
Text, for teacher only :	Ages :	4	
"Life's Lessons for Little Ones."	4	5	Zion's Boys
Text will be used 3 years.	5	6	and
Price 4/-.	6	7	Zion's Girls
		8	
Primary Department		Trail Builder Boys	Home Builder Girls
	Ages :	Ages :	Ages :
Old Testament Stories for Children	7	9 — Blazers	9 — Larks
	8	10 — Trekkers	10 — Bluebirds
	9	11 — Guides	11 — Seagulls
Church History Department		The Blazer Log must be completed before other work is taken.	
History of the Church from the martyrdom or the Prophet up to the present time.	Ages : 10 11	A class for each age may be formed, or all may meet together.	
THE MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION			
		Y. M. M. I. A. Y. W. M. I. A.	
" A " Department, New Testament		Ages :	Ages :
A study of the Life of Christ for boys and girls of these ages.	Ages : 12 to 17	12 A Nationally Registered Troop of Boy Scouts.	12 A Bee-Hive to Department for girls
" C " Department, Gospel Messages		Ages : An M Men	Ages :
Gospel principles applied to the problems of this age group of both young men and young women.	Ages : 17 to 35	17 Department for young men.	17 A Gleaner to Department for girls.
Gospel Doctrine Department		An Adult Department for mature people 35 years of age and above.	
The Life and Teachings of the Saviour.	Adults	Adults	

FOR EACH OF THE AGE GROUPS OF THE CLASSES IN THE PRIMARY AND M. I. A. GIVEN ABOVE, WHICH ARE ESTABLISHED IN YOUR BRANCH, AND FUNCTIONING PROPERLY, THERE SHOULD BE A CORRESPONDING CLASS IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Each member of the Sunday School classes should possess a Sunday School Lesson at 1/- per year, except the Kindergarten, where only the teacher uses the text. Subscriptions should be procured by the Sunday

School superintendent and recorded by the secretary. The School secretary should send the order for subscriptions direct to the Mission Bookstore, with money to cover the order. The secretary will receive all the "Lessons" for the school each quarter from the Mission Office. Names of the owners should be written on the books, and should be given to the teacher of the class for distribution.

In forming 1935 classes in the Sunday School consider these factors: 1. Present Attendance: A class for each age group of which there are 3 or more in attendance at present. 2. Future Attendance: A class for those whom you wish to draw in from the Primary and M. I. A. classes during the year. 3. Classroom space: Use screens, curtains, and partitions to make room for the classes you need. 4. Suitable teachers: Remember that the teacher invariably learns more than the pupils, and bear in mind that the teacher training course of the Sunday School Bulletin, starting No. 6, December, will help those who face teaching problems.—THE BRITISH MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD—CONWAY A. ASHTON.

OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

The Sunday School is the theological workshop of our Church, and its officers must make of themselves efficient workmen so that they can teach the young the essential principles of salvation. The officers of to-day will be called upon to lead the members of the Church in this country in the near future, when our Gospel will be accepted by numbers of men and women of our country who will be brought into the Church. These officers must be fully qualified to lead the people, and they must see to it that they prepare the scholars under them to take up the offices they vacate. This is no chimera of the mind, but a definite prophetic outlook, for which we must be prepared.—WILLIAM BICKERSTAFF.

1935! A new start—or, rather, another great opportunity to put our Sunday Schools in order. Superintendents, get your old Bulletins out before the first Sunday in 1935. Read them. Is there anything in them you have not seen before? Are you following every exercise correctly?

Each Sunday in every school there should be 15 minutes of real singing practice, where a hymn can be learned and sung in all four parts. Another important item pertaining to the Sunday School is order. The Sunday School members should be trained to respect the House of the Lord by coming into it and taking seats quietly and by refraining from laughter and audible conversation. This training requires time and kindness. 1935 is the time to commence.

Can we increase our attendance? Yes, we can! We can make each session a red letter event—a magnet to draw members and friends to the Sunday School.—DAVID H. WILLMOTT.

SECRETARIES AND OFFICERS

Start the New Year well! Obtain a Sunday School Roll Book, price 1s. 6d., and a Sunday School Minute Book, price 4s. The Roll Book provides space for keeping attendance records for one class for four years. It is suggested that one roll book be purchased at the beginning of each year until each class is provided with one. Then the roll books will run out in rotation. Notice that the charge becomes only 4d. per year per roll book. By having a minute book accurately kept, details can easily be taken for filling in the yearly report forms.

The Annual Report must be filled out during the first week in January. It is most important that all possible details are included in this report.

Secretarial work is a great responsibility resting upon us, and it is our duty and privilege to perform this in a diligent and conscientious manner. Let us strive to make 1935 a record year in all respects.—WILLIAM O. CHIPPING.

GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT

FOR the year 1935 the Genealogical study course has been adapted for this mission from the *Genealogy Handbook*. This text has been prepared from authoritative sources by Sister Laura W. Salzner, Genealogical Supervisor of the Swiss-German Mission, with the help of Elder David Piranean, and has been translated into the English language by Sister Emily T. Merrill. The course is designed to teach Genealogy work in the most effective way: through laboratory periods in which record forms for the family and the Temple are used. The course will be one of fascinating activity. The manual will be sold through the Mission Bookstore when it has been mimeographed. The price will be announced later.

GENEALOGICAL CLASSES

Second Week. Lesson I. "Our Objective." *Laboratory Period:* Use this period to make assignments to the members of the classes so that they will bring paper, pencils, pens and ink to the class next time. Those who have Books of Remembrance should bring them; those who have not should bring a good grade of white paper for pen and ink, and also their own Bible.

Fourth Week. Lesson II. "Accomplishing the Objective." *Laboratory Period:* Project No. 1, for those who have not done assignment one in the Book of Remembrance, is to copy a patriarchal blessing to be put in a folder or the Book of Remembrance. Project No. 2, for those who have already copied the blessing is to find another blessing in the Bible and copy that.

Officers: Read the instructions in the Lesson Manual about the laboratory period.—CONWAY A. ASHTON.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

1935—A NEW YEAR!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL M. I. A. WORKERS!

We have just concluded our first Mission-wide series of M. I. A. Conventions, fourteen in number, in which over 400 persons (including Primary groups) have participated, in speech, song, story, or dramatization. In addition, twenty-seven special convention meetings of Y. M. M. I. A. and Y. W. M. I. A. officers have been held, as well as twelve Special Leadership Training Courses. Every officer and department leader in the British Isles now understands that through the development of the five great departments of our Plan, caring for the recruits that are coming to us from the Primary Associations, a New Day is dawning. The challenge of Scouting and Bee-Hive work lies directly before us all. Just beyond that task is the necessity for populating strong M Men and Gleaner departments. Then there is the drive of rhythmic activity and appreciation courses and Year-Round events in recreation that call for intelligent action. Surely never before in Britain's history were prospects so bright for a New Year chock full of bigger and better Mutual Improvement! The Mission executives are grateful to all who have so loyally carried the shining M. I. A. banners forward to this new prominence. We desire your increased confidence and loyalty, faith and prayers, for the New Year. May God bless us all to right joyfully "Carry On."

YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMME EVENTS—TO COME

January—Green and Gold Balls March—Music Festival
 February—Drama: Plays April—Committee's Choice
 May—Branch and District Honour Days

(Continued on page 795)

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1934

EDITORIAL

THE ELECTIONS IN AMERICA

A READER of London newspapers and a listener to B. B. C. radio lectures will soon learn that Britons are interested in things American, just as Americans are interested in things British. And among the many reasons for this is that these two great peoples speak the same language, are largely of the same blood and have in common many ideals and aspirations.

England is the fatherland of democratic government, and the English speaking peoples are the great conservators of democratic institutions. In both England and America democracy rules, that is, the voice of the majority as expressed by secret ballot in regular elections at periodic intervals controls the policies of government. In these countries minorities do not take up arms to overthrow officers duly chosen at these elections. In both of these countries freedom of speech and of the Press is highly prized and carefully safeguarded. In both countries liberty under the law is regarded as the best protector of personal freedom, and as affording the finest opportunities for exercising this freedom.

Now it is common knowledge that the English Government, on behalf of the English people, are keenly observant of the working of the policies of President Roosevelt, particularly those that are designed to cure "the depression." The unfortunate slowing up of industry came to Britain before it did to America, and so the English Government have been struggling with depression longer than has America. But at the ballot two years ago the American voters generously responded to Mr. Roosevelt's appeal for a "new deal." No one knew—perhaps not even Mr. Roosevelt himself—just what the details of the "new deal" would be, but the great majority of the electorate believed, apparently, that some drastic changes in governmental policies should be tried in an effort "to bring the country back to normal."

And so, beginning with March, 1933, the Roosevelt administration has been busied with a number of policies, designed to eliminate or alleviate abnormal conditions. Six years ago many of the things done would have been considered very radical. But in America political thought has been undergoing rapid changes almost continuously during the past forty years. Many of the most conservative doctrines of to-day would have been considered so radical at that time that neither of the major political parties would have espoused them. But circumstances

largely determine governmental policies. Inevitably this must be so in real democracies.

Obviously a number of the Roosevelt measures were experimental. Their worth had to be determined by trying them. And, as was to be expected, some of them have not been very effective. In fact, recovery has moved on the whole but slowly. Perhaps no one has been more disappointed with the progress made than the President himself. But he has not given up—his optimism still remains his chief asset. And, as the elections on November 6th showed, the country still has confidence in him. Over two-thirds of each branch of Congress—the Senate and the House of Representatives—are pledged to support him. This is a larger supporting majority than any president has had in more than sixty years. However, this does not insure the President against a multitude of troubles. The very magnitude of the majority will be one of them.

A number of new measures will have to be tried. The electorate appear to be resolved on such changes, however radical they may appear or really be, as are necessary to give the people a satisfactory living. And the average standard of living in the United States is high, undoubtedly the highest in the world. But America is a land of plenty. Poverty in the midst of plenty is an anomaly that America apparently will no longer tolerate. And herein lies a danger—a very ominous one. Many of President Roosevelt's difficulties with the new Congress will likely be due to this danger. What is this danger, so real and sinister? We shall consider it in a subsequent issue of the *Star*.—JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

PRESIDENT IVINS IN THE "STAR"

WE were surprised to hear recently that some of our readers complained that the *Star* had devoted too much space to President Ivins, asserting that many good British saints die and the *Star* gives no mention to their passing. It is obvious that the *Star* cannot record events of which it does not learn.

Were not the sermons of President Ivins that we printed immensely helpful? Was not his life very inspiring? Did not his position in the Church and Kingdom of God deserve the greatest publicity to his passing?

Did any of these readers complain of the immense Press attention given during the autumn to the courtship and marriage of the Duke of Kent and the Princess Marina? Are there not thousands of worthy Britons being married every week whose names are not mentioned in the newspapers?

As a matter of fact, did any complaining reader feel happy in making his complaint? Herein is a key. If what we do is uplifting and brings to us real joy and satisfaction, resulting in an increase of love for our fellows and the cause of righteousness,

then we may know that the Lord approves of our act; otherwise it behooves us to beware lest we are serving the devil. Of course, none of our readers wants to do that.

We urge every reader to cultivate the use of the key herein given.—JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

BUILDING FUND CONTEST ENDS DECEMBER 31st

THE M. I. A. building fund competition, sponsored by Dr. Ray M. Russell, will be terminated on December 31st. For the benefit of those who wish to submit last-minute entries the nature and conditions of the contest are restated here.

The competition is really two competitions in one. Prizes will be given for new ideas, and for cumulative results of this year's building fund activities within the branches.

The idea phase of the contest calls for "single ideas," or ways to raise money for the branch building funds. An example of what is required is the winning idea of a similar contest that was concluded in June: "Canvass inactive members for contributions to an established building fund."

Dr. Russell has offered a cash award of £2 to the M. I. A. organization submitting the "single idea" that, in the opinion of the contest judges, it is most workable and effective. For each of the next three ideas adjudged as outstanding will be awarded prizes of £1.

Awards in the other phase of the contest, the conversion of ideas and a year's efforts into cash for the building fund, total £7, £5 for the branch raising the most money for its building fund this year, and £2 for the branch with the second largest addition to its building fund.

If you have a desire to see the branches of the British Mission housed in suitable buildings, express it by participating, through your branch M. I. A., in the M. I. A. building fund competition.

"MY PERSONAL PLAN . . ."

A SELECTION FROM THE SLOGAN CONTEST CONTRIBUTIONS

By THOMAS RUDD, SKELTON BRANCH

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *This article concludes the series of ten "Personal Plans" selected for publication from among the contributions to the Millennial Star-M. I. A. Slogan Competition. We regret that lack of space has placed this limit to the number of contributions that could be printed, for there were few received that did not merit publication. The articles that have appeared, however, were selected because they were representative of the mission-wide reaction to the slogan, and through them, in a measure, have the thoughts and plans of each of the contributors to the competition received expression.*]

AMONG the various benefits that have come to me through my membership in the M. I. A. have been the benefits derived through my endeavour to observe the yearly M. I. A. slogans.

In reviewing the slogans of the past, I feel that they have been presented at a time when they were most needed. Now, reflecting upon the 1934-35 slogan, my thoughts revert to the words of our Saviour: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Everyone of us has proved the truth of these words. Consider for a moment the joys that have come to each of us through our acquaintance with the faithful saints of these latter days. Truly our hearts have burned within us, and we have been led to glorify our Heavenly Father because of their works.

Surely this is a principle rich in promise and open to everyone—a promise which can be realized through observance of our current M. I. A. slogan. What greater mission can any of us fill than that of leading our fellowmen to glorify our Heavenly Father through our endeavour to let our actions square with Gospel principles. Why, the strongest testimony that we can give to the world of the Restoration of the Gospel is the testimony of our actions.

My personal plan? It is to accept the statement of the slogan, that my *actions* will give proof of my allegiance to the Church, and then to try to overcome my weaknesses that lead me to do those things that hinder my progression in the eternal scheme of things.

The word of the Lord to the Church in these days, especially to those who desire to prove their allegiance to Him, is set forth in the Doctrine and Covenants to this effect:

And faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work.

Remember faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence.

Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Amen.

The question presents itself: How many of these virtues do I possess? For surely our integrity may be proved by comparing our desires with these.

We are told that no one has ever acquired uncommon virtue without having first made the acquiring of virtue an object of specific and systematic effort. Whatever else comes to us by nature, self-control does not; it has to be acquired. So in the light of this knowledge, and inspired by the refining influence of Mormonism, I will endeavour, actively, to acquire the virtues prescribed by the Lord as requisite to those who would serve Him in these latter days.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

(Concluded from page 791)

EXECUTIVES—PROJECTS FOR JANUARY

First: Green and Gold Balls in every branch possible, and in every district.

Second: Re-read all circulars received since September.

Third: The stressing of the quality of *dependability*: Promptness with all reports.

SUNDAY EVENING JOINT PROGRAMME FOR JANUARY

Mutuals of the British Mission will unite with the Church in presenting the Youth Programme outlined on page 147 of the M Men manual.

1. *Organ Prelude*: A Sacred Number.
2. *Invocation*: A Gleaner Girl.
3. *M. I. A. Mixed Chorus*: "Sweet is the Work."
4. *Greetings*: Y. M. or Y. W. M. I. A. President, who will then turn the meeting over to the Branch M Men and Gleaner presidents.
5. *Address of Welcome and Announcement of Programme*: Branch M Men president.
6. *Hymn*: "Come, Come, Ye Saints." Congregation.
7. *Challenge to Youth*: Two talks, one by a leader in the Priesthood, such as the branch president; the other by the Relief Society president or someone else of long experience who will prepare the subject well. (Talks should be about 20 minutes each. Travelling elders, also, could be well used for the above in small branches.)
8. *Hymn*: "True to the Faith." Congregation.
9. *"The Answers to the Challenge"*:
 - "We Will continue in His Word"—A Gleaner.
 - "We Will Build Latter-day Saint Homes and Communities"—A Gleaner.
 - "We Will Carry The Torch"—An M Man.
 - "By My Actions I will Prove My Allegiance to the Church"—an M Man.

10. *Closing Song*: "Carry On."

11. *Benediction*. (Note: All of the speeches in this programme must be unusually well prepared if this programme is to be effective. Furthermore, the leaders must be able to give the four young people who are to give the "answers" an idea of what they are going to say, in order that the answers may be effective.)

WEEKLY PRELIMINARY PROGRAMMES—SPECIAL FEATURES

First Night. Slogan Talk: (*By My Actions I will prove my allegiance to the Church*): "We Believe in Being Virtuous."

Second Night. Retold Story: "Joseph Who Was Sold Into Egypt."

Third Night. Slogan Talk: "We Believe in Doing Good to All Men."

Fourth Night. Retold Story: Teller's choice.

DEPARTMENTAL WORK: Every department leader should watch the time-table in his manual.

SCOUTING: IMPORTANT NOTICE! All who are planning to organize Scout troops please communicate with the Y. M. M. I. A. Superintendency at 5 Gordon Square, London, W.C. 1, as it has been discovered with the recent organization of the "Battersea Troop 37, L. D. S." in the Southwest London Branch, that we may best serve the public and our own interests through developing "controlled" rather than "open" troops. Watch for further information on this matter.

It is desired that troops meet in the preliminary programme of the M. I. A. and then be marched out to troop room or hall. This joining with the entire M. I. A. group helps the spiritual side of Scouting and gives the boys a blessing on their night's activities. Scoutmasters should see that arrangements are carried out orderly and smartly, as is done in Sunday Schools.

As we are new, all troops should concentrate on Tenderfoot work and get the boys forward, stressing the Scout Law and Promise. Follow only *Scouting for Boys* and the official publications of the British Scouts Association.—LEWIS H. TARR.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY COMMITTEES

January event is the Green and Gold Ball. It may be either a district or branch affair. Where it is the former, district supervisors should

mobilize branch community activity committees into a huge cooperative scheme for a successful affair. The Green and Gold colours should be displayed in the most attractive manner, so as to be unique. The proper Latter-day Saint spirit should characterize the entire evening, with the best of refreshments, decorations, music, lighting effect, tickets, publicity, and demonstrations of Green and Gold dancing as expressions of militant Mutual Improvement work. The Green and Gold dances are found in the Community Activity Manual and the Supplement.

LEST WE FORGET!

M. I. A. has endeavoured to do its bit towards better meeting facilities. The Building Fund Contest ends at midnight, December 31st. Ideas should reach the contest committee by that date; funds should be deposited with the Mission Office by January 6th; and a record of progress since February 10th, 1934, delivered by the same date.—BRITISH MISSION Y. M. M. I. A. AND Y. W. M. I. A. BOARDS.—G. HOMER DURHAM.

PRIMARY ASSOCIATION

In ancient times people kept a record of all activity in most interesting fashion. The "secretary" may have chiseled characters on the walls of the caves in which the group lived, or, like Moses, he may have carved his message on a tablet of stone. Perhaps unique rolls of papyrus preserved history for future generations. To have had plates of gold on which to carve the events and progress must have been most fascinating. To write a message, fasten it to the leg of a carrier pigeon, and watch that bird disappear in the blue sky was a beautiful custom.

Modern civilization has done away with such things as these, and in their place a system has developed whereby, in a short period of time, all people know how "the other half lives." In our prosaic world records must be kept, even as in the centuries past; perhaps not of wars and wickedness, but certainly of progress!

For that purpose report blanks have been printed for the use of the Mission Primaries. The activities of these children meeting with us to learn of our Father must be recognized as worth while. At the close of each month a report blank is to be filled in as correctly and accurately as possible and sent to the district Primary supervisor. She in turn will make a compiled record of the district for the Mission Office.

Primary Workers, a report, whether on gold plates or on a printed form, is of no use unless each section is represented. We must have a report from every branch in order to give a true picture of our work. Let the New Year bring to us a renewed determination to carry out the plans given; to make accurate records of those plans, and to report the progress of each month, that we may know our weak places and strengthen them by well directed labors.—BRITISH MISSION PRIMARY BOARD—ELIZABETH CORNWALL.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT CONFERENCE

THE annual autumn conference of the Birmingham district convened on December 2nd at the Handsworth chapel in Birmingham. President Joseph F. Merrill and Sister Emily T. Merrill, President James H. Douglas and Sister Rintha Pratt Douglas, leaders of the European and British Missions, and

Elder G. Homer Durham and Sisters Catherine L. M. Horner and Madeline E. R. Hill, of the British Mission Y. M. and Y. W. M. I. A. boards, came from London to address the meetings.

In the morning session President Elliot H. Merrell gave a report of the district activities since the last

conference. The congregation then separated for Priesthood and Relief Society instruction, under the direction of President and Sister Douglas.

In the afternoon was held an auxiliary conference-convention. Under the direction of the M. I. A. officers from London, and Sister Winifred Makin, Primary supervisor of the Birmingham district, who were assisted by local members of each of the organizations, the programme and activities of M. I. A. and Primary were outlined and explained to the assemblage. Auxiliary work was presented as being two-fold in purpose. It is a means of developing leadership among the Church membership, and of placing before the world, in an up-to-date manner, the message of the Restoration.

Sister Merrill, in her remarks in the evening session, emphasized again the importance of auxiliary work in the activities of the mission. She said that the auxiliary programme of the Church was designed as an aid to the building of character.

Sister Douglas told of the love that she has for the British people, and in bidding the saints of Birmingham farewell, she expressed to them her gratitude for the support they have given her as President of the British Mission Relief Societies. The work of the Church, she stated, will go forward, and the Church will soon receive the favourable recognition in Britain that it is receiving elsewhere.

The will of the people to adopt

and put over the auxiliary programme of the Church in their branches will determine its success. This was the message of President Merrill to the congregation. Honest and sincere effort to overcome the handicaps under which many of the branches now hold their meetings, he said, will pave the way to better conditions and facilities.

It is not believing in the high standards of their religion that will mark the Mormon people as different from people of other faiths, but it is living the principles prescribed by those standards that will attract the notice of those who are searching for truth, according to President Douglas, who was the concluding speaker of the conference. He stressed the importance of observing the Word of Wisdom, and as a parting counsel to the Birmingham saints, he gave them his assurance and testimony that the application of the laws and principles of truth will always bring due benefits and blessings.

Musical selections were rendered by the district choir, and by Sister Muriel Hunter, who sang a soprano solo. She was accompanied by Mr. Orland, of Coventry.

District missionaries present were President Elliott H. Merrell, and Elders Alonzo W. Stringam, Ralph J. Wheelright, Albert G. Hunt, Mylan L. Healy, Fielding S. Barlow, Ira A. Newsome, Preston B. Hoopes, and Alva D. Greene.

ALONZO W. STRINGAM

Clerk of Conference.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Arrivals and Assignments: The following elders arrived in London on November 28th, and were assigned to labour as designated:

Ormond S. Coulam, of Salt Lake City, Utah, to the Manchester district.

Orson K. Taylor, of Provo, Utah, to the Portsmouth district.

Parley P. Giles, of Salt Lake City, Utah, to the Portsmouth district.

Max Smart, of Provo, Utah, to the London district.

Alton Fogg Harris, of Salt Lake

City, Utah, to the London district.

Grant Smith, of Salt City, Utah, to the Scottish district.

Transfers—Elder Eargle C. Hansen was transferred from the Manchester district to the Birmingham district on November 30th.

Elder Mylan L. Healy was transferred from the Birmingham district to the Leeds district on December 4th.

Appointments—Sister Elizabeth Cornwall was appointed, on November 17th, to succeed Sister Nettie L. Woodbury as supervisor of the British Mission Primaries, and head of the British Mission Primary board. Set apart as her first counsellor was Sister Celia B. Willmott, with Sister Edna Clayton as second counsellor and Sister Mildred Poole, secretary.

In a re-organization of the British Mission Y. W. M. I. A. board, effected on November 17th, Sister Madeline E. R. Hill was set apart as first counsellor to Sister Catherine L. M. Horner, British Mission Y. W. M. I. A. president and Sister Elise Mace was set apart as second counsellor. Sister Florence Bickerstaff continues as secretary.

Sister Hill, formerly second counsellor on the board, replaces Sister Claire Clayton, who was released from her board duties, September 3rd, due to the press of other activities. Sister Mace succeeds Sister Hill, and will serve as the special Gleaner representative of the board. All communications to board members concerning M. I. A. work may be addressed to them at 5 Gordon Square, London, W. C. 1.

Doings in the Districts : Bristol—An educational visit to the Bristol Cooperative Dairy was the object of a group of saints and friends organized by Sister Gladys Millard of the Bristol branch, on November 21st. The afternoon proved to be very interesting and instructive.

Officers and teachers of the district's auxiliaries met in Cheltenham on November 24th for the first Union meeting to be held in the district for several years. Instructions on class work procedure were the feature of the session, which was directed by President Gordon K. Ashley. Following the meeting, members of the Cheltenham branch staged their annual Autumn Festival, an evening of concert numbers, games and pleasantries. Elder Gilbert R. Langton was in charge.

London—M. I. A. members of the North London branch staged a gala Harvest Ball at the Argyle Hall on Friday, November 30th. The feat-

ure of the evening was the selection and crowning of the Harvest Queen. Sister Mildred Poole was chosen for this regal honour, and was presented with a casket of chocolates as her coronation gift. Brother Albert H. Willmott acted as M. C. Music was furnished by Elder G. Homer Durham, the Brothers Beckenham, and William Earl.

Nottingham—Members of the Mansfield branch met in conference on Sunday, November 11th. Theme of the day was "A Spiritual Awakening." In the evening session, President Farron E. Cutler, Alfred H. Hewerdine, and John H. Limb were the speakers.

A cottage meeting, to which many members and friends came, was held at the home of Sister May Cooke on Friday, November 6th. In charge of the meeting was Elder Joseph H. Stout.

The home of Sister D. Blythe was the scene of a pleasant social evening on Saturday, November 17th, at which members of the Mansfield branch were guests. Following a pie-and-pear supper, games and a concert programme provided enjoyable entertainment.

To raise funds to finance special relief to the poor during Christmas week, the district Relief Society organizations sponsored a social evening, December 1st. Sister Rhoda Tinson, district Relief Society supervisor, was in charge of the entertainment. Representatives of five branches contributed numbers on the programme. The evening was concluded with refreshments and games.

Scottish—Special Armistice day services were held in the Glasgow branch under the auspices of the branch Y. M. M. I. A. on November 11th. Walter Foote, 1st counsellor in the branch Y. M. M. I. A. presidency was in charge of the programme.

In Stonehouse, at the home of Brother William Graham, a small group of members and friends met on November 7th for a cottage meeting. The service was under the direction of Elder Walter B. Hoggan.

Personals—James Mervin Carroll was the name given to the infant son of James Carroll and Sister Nell Gledhill Carroll, of the Preston branch, in a blessing pronounced by President Joseph Fielding Smith, on November 22nd.

The daughter of Brother Walter Whitaker and Betty Booth Whitaker was blessed at a meeting of the Burnley branch, November 11th, by Elder E. J. Milne. She was given the name of Hazel Whitaker.

Married on October 27th were Sister Mary Moore, of the Wolverhampton branch, and Mr. Leslie Frank Hope.

Sheila Booth was the name given to the daughter of Samuel Booth and Dorothy Burgess Booth in a blessing in which Elder William F. Homer officiated.

Born to Brother John Sutcliffe and Sister Sarah Espley Sutcliffe, of the Burnley branch, was a son, on November 28th. Both the mother and child are doing well.

Shirley Rose Challis was the name given to the daughter of Elsie Rose and William Alfred Challis of the Liverpool branch in a blessing pronounced by Elder Joshua Rallison, Sunday, October 7th.

DEATHS

DURHAM—The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Durham, who are friends of the Airdrie branch, died on November 18th. Funeral services were held on November 20th under the direction of Elder Walter B. Hoggan, who also pronounced the dedicatory prayer at the graveside in the Ashgill cemetery.

JONES—Sister Rachel Bentham Jones, 61, of Leigh, for thirty years a member of the Church, died on Sunday, November 18th. She had been an invalid for nearly forty years.

Funeral services were held in the Jones' home on November 21st under the direction of Elder Keith

M. Macfarlane. Speakers were President Elbert H. Startup and Elder J. Kay Lindsay. Elder Lindsay offered the dedicatory prayer at the graveside.

Sister Jones is survived by her husband, Brother Hugh Jones, to whom she was married twenty years ago. His unselfish care, and his devotion to her have been a beautiful example of true Christian love and service.

Sister Jones was well known to the people of Leigh, who loved and respected her for her cheery disposition and her uncomplaining faith. Her death was the occasion for many sincere tributes from the Manchester Press, both to her and to Brother Jones.

CONTENTS

The Individual Need of Gospel	President Ivins in the <i>Star</i>	793
Living 785	"My Personal Plan. . ."	794
Priesthood 788	Building Fund Contest Ends	
Relief Society 788	December 31st	794
Sunday School 789	Primary Association	797
Mutual Improvement Associa-	Birmingham District Confer-	
tions 791	ence	797
Genealogical Department ... 791	From the Mission Field... ..	798
Editorials: Elections In America		792

PUBLISHER: JAMES H. DOUGLAS, 5 GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, W. C. 1

EDITOR: JOSEPH F. MERRILL, 5 GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, W.C. 1

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: RICHARD S. BENNETT, 5 GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, W.C. 1